



# City Connection

Volume 5, Number 10

JULY 2009

[www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)

## S U M M E R FILM FESTIVAL 2009

The fourth annual Huntsville Summer Film Festival will be held July 24 and 25 at the Old Town Theater, and the event will include something for moviegoers of all ages and tastes.

According to Allyson Pichnic, Main Street intern, the four films which will be featured in the festival include *La Vita E'Bella* (Life is Beautiful), *Swiss Family Robinson*, Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* and *Some Like It Hot*.

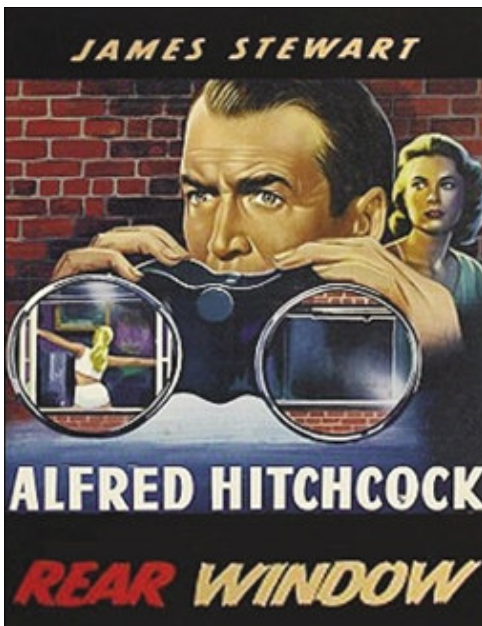
The festival will also include two dinner package options at the Stardust Room, and the meals offered will go along with the films being shown each evening.

"When we started planning this year's Film Festival, we let the public know we wanted input from them regarding which films we should show," Pichnic said. "We had lots of calls, faxes and E-mails with votes, and the four movies we picked were the ones that got the highest number of votes from the public."

"I think we've got a really great selection of movies this year, and we should have a great turnout for the festival."

While *La Vita E'Bella*, *Rear Window* and *Some Like It Hot* were chosen on their own, Pichnic and Main Street Program Manager Harold Hutchison had to put in extra effort to find a movie which plenty of children would agree on.

"We were having trouble finding kids film, so we called Sandra Clifton at the YMCA, and she took a poll there from several hundred kids from different schools," Pichnic said. "We gave her four choices to present to them, and she said they unanimously picked *Swiss Family Robinson*. That was all we needed to hear."



In addition to the four films to be shown during the festival, Pichnic said two themed dinners will be offered in conjunction with *La Vita E'Bella* and *Some Like It Hot*.

"We have two dinner options available for those who want to enjoy dinner and a movie for one low price," she said. "For \$20 on either Friday or Saturday night, guests can get a non-alcoholic drink, dinner, a salad, desert and their movie ticket."

"On Friday night, to go along with *La Vita E'Bella*, the Stardust Room is going to offer a really delicious Italian dinner."

*La Vita E'Bella* will begin the festival at 8 p.m. on July 24, and on July 25, *Swiss Family Robinson*, *Rear Window* and *Some Like It Hot* will be shown at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively.

Tickets for general admission to any of the films will be sold up to and including the days of the festival for \$5 each. Tickets can be purchased at the Main Street Program Office, located at 1203 University Ave., the Wynne Home Arts Center, the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce, the Stardust Room, Mt. Vernon Gift Shop and Cloud 9 Coffee Bar/Health.

For more information, call the Main Street Program office at (936) 295-2150.

### Citizens of Huntsville

Be a part of Democracy in Action! Your input is requested and respected!  
We invite you to visit our City facilities, attend Council meetings and take part in your community!

## Hurricane Season 2009: Are You Prepared?

*Reminder to residents to prepare for June to November hurricane season*

As the 2009 hurricane season continues, the City of Huntsville has several safety tips for residents to act on as soon as possible.

According to John Waldo, City of Huntsville EMC, having a personal plan of action in place is one of the most important ways to be prepared for a hurricane.

"Everyone, including large families and individuals, needs to have a personal plan of action," he said. "In the event of a hurricane, an action plan will detail who does what, where you go and what you take along. Determine your destination, look on a map to find the quickest and safest route to your destination, and remember that bridges and low-lying areas may be under water or impassible during the storm.

"Remember to review your insurance policies and coverage, take photos or videos of your property and have them in a safe place or with friends" Waldo states.

Also, any necessary home repairs should be completed well before a hurricane enters the immediate area.

"Take time to look at your home and make any repairs necessary before the wind starts to blow - that means looking at gutters, drains and any other exterior elements," he

said. "Also take a look at the trees around your home for any loose branches, and don't forget to bring in the lawn furniture.

"You can even pre-drill holes for plywood to protect your windows and doors in the event of high winds."

Finally, an emergency supply kit and enough food and water to sustain every household member should also be collected ahead of time.

"Ideally, you should have enough non-perishable food items on hand to sustain your family for two weeks," Waldo said. "High energy, high-nutrition foods are best. If the power goes out, eat the foods in the refrigerator first, before eating food in the freezer. Only open the refrigerator and freezer doors when needed, because the longer the doors stay closed, the longer the food lasts."

"It is also extremely important to store enough water to go around. When the storm hits, a good rule of thumb would be to have a two week supply of water per person stored up and ready for use," Waldo said. "That would equate to around 14 gallons per person or one gallon per day per person."

### **Take time to build an emergency supply kit, and keep it handy!**

Ideally, you should have enough non-perishable food items on hand to sustain your family for two weeks. High energy, high-nutrition foods are best.

Some non-perishable foods are:

Canned or bottled: meats, vegetables, fruits, soups, juices or evaporated milk

Bagged or boxed: soup, sugar, flour, salt, pepper, cereal, or crackers

Energy boosters:  
Granola bars, peanut butter, cookies, nuts, dried fruits, trail mix, other snacks

## **\$ Budget Work Update \$**

During the next two months, the City Council will continue its work on the 2009-10 Budget. Tentatively, the Council is scheduled to meet several times to discuss each aspect of the budget before a possible adoption date in August.

**Friday, July 10**

**Saturday, July 11**

**Friday, July 17**

**Saturday, July 18**

**Friday, July 24**

**Friday, August 21**

**Tuesday, August 25**

**City Council budget work session (operating)**

**City Council budget work session (operating – if needed)**

**City Council budget work session (capital/operating)**

**City Council budget work session (capital – if needed)**

**City Council work session**

**City Council final budget review**

**Adopt budget**

# Mance Park Area Clean-Up a Success

*Huntsville Police Department partners with City of Huntsville Streets Department, Parks Department and Code Enforcement to help local residents clean up their neighborhoods*

On May 28, the City of Huntsville and the Huntsville Police Department held a community meeting focused on cleaning up the area surrounding Mance Park Middle School.

One month later, both the City of Huntsville building official, Mike Roempke, and Huntsville Police Department Officer Joe Thornton noted significant progress in the area, and they said the improvements are just beginning.

"The community surrounding Mance Park Middle School has been working really hard to get their neighborhoods cleaned up," Roempke said. "I think the response really shows that our communities really do care about their neighborhoods, and sometimes we get to a point where both the City and the neighborhoods need to help each other."

The Mance Park Task Area, Roempke noted, is bordered by FM 247, FM 2821, Highway 30 East and 11<sup>th</sup> Street, meaning the area inside those roadways has been included in the clean-up effort.

The original community meeting addressed concerns including code enforcement, neighborhood watch programs, garbage removal and structure maintenance.

Within the first few weeks following the meeting, Roempke said considerable progress was made in each of those concern areas.

"The Streets Department has already installed new street signs on Ryan's Ferry Road," he said. "The department is also having 16 new street lights added and approximately 140 lights upgraded and repaired."

"We've also identified 20 substandard houses for abatement either by repair or demolition, collected almost 30 tons of debris, and identified over 100 junk vehicles."

According to Thornton, the work done by community members and by the City employees has had a positive and visible effect on the area around Mance Park.

"We've added extra patrols to check specific locations in the area for criminal trespassing and drug activity at multiple times throughout the day," he said. "I've also

had a lot of people take information from me about Neighborhood Watch programs, and people are already going out and getting their neighbors involved in those initiatives.

"Just with the work that has been done so far, the officers I have on patrol have noticed how nice the neighborhoods look compared to their appearance just a few weeks ago."

Even with all of the improvements that have taken place over the last four weeks, Roempke states the extensive clean-up efforts planned for the area have only just begun.

"On July 9, we begin our enforcement period, and the residents in that area will see another surge of difference at that point," he said. "During the enforcement, we'll start enforcing the rules on those who did not participate voluntarily in the clean-up efforts. That means we'll start to enforce the removal of junk vehicles, the mowing of overgrown vegetation, the removal of debris and trash, and the application of housing standards on properties that are occupied."

"We'll also turn our attention to the 20 substandard structures we've located, and our goal is to completely eliminate those structures."

Darniece Franklin, one of the residents in the Mance Park area, said she is very pleased with the work done by City employees in her neighborhood.

"I'm really seeing the City stepping in and improving the look of this neighborhood," she said. "After years of paying taxes, this makes me feel like my taxes are going back into my neighborhood."

"I'm pleased with the effort being made to do something for those of us who want to see our city look better."

Roempke also mentioned he is very impressed with the effort put forth by the residents in the Mance Park Task Area and by the City employees involved in the clean-up process.

"We have gotten a very good reception from the people in our clean-up area, and we're really building relationships with the community members," he said.

## Police/Fire Statistics: May 2009

### Police:

- ♦ Calls for service: **4924**
- ♦ Accidents investigated: **73**
- ♦ Animal Control complaints investigated: **88**

### Fire:

- ♦ Calls for service: **104**
- ♦ Main alarm calls: **18**



# Kid's Korner

## Friends Word Search



CARING	LAUGH
COOL	NICE
FRIENDLY	PLAYFUL
FUN	PLAYS
FUNNY	POLITE
GIVING	SHARES
GOOD	SMILE
HAPPY	TOGETHER
HELPS	TRUSTWORTHY
JOKES	WELL MANNERED
KIND	YOU

## Calendar

### July 2009

- 7 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 8 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 15 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 21 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M.
- 22 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 29 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required

### August 2009

- 4 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 5 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 12 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 18 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 19 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 26 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796

### September 2009

- 1 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 2 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 9 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 15 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M
- 16 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required
- 23 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste Collection — **call in required** (936) 294-5796
- 30 Yard Waste Trimming Collection - no call in required

Please note: All requests for Heavy Trash pick-up must be made no later than noon on Monday, the week of the pick-up.



Visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)  
for a complete calendar of events.